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STATINTL

ARMS CONTROL AGENCY VOTED 4 MORE YEARS

BY PHILIP WARDEN
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, Feb. 2 — The House foreign affairs committee today gave President Johnson the disarmament agency extension he requested and prepared to start foreign aid bill hearings Thursday.

Chairman Thomas E. Morgan [D., Pa.] announced that David E. Bell, administrator of the agency for international development, will testify first on the \$3,380,000,000 foreign aid bill.

The foreign affairs committee voted 24 to 2 to authorize a four-year extension of the arms control and disarmament agency at a maximum cost of 55 million dollars, exactly what President Johnson requested.

Congress heretofore had been unwilling to go beyond a two-year extension of life for the disarmament agency. It had limited its spending to 10 million dollars a year.

A Long-Range Outlook

An amendment was offered in committee to limit its extension to two more years, while increasing its spending limits to 24 million dollars. The amendment was defeated 16 to 11.

The administration made a strong case that no agency can make long range plans, such as are needed for disarmament, when it faces a cut off every two years, members reported.

President Johnson requested an extension of life for the agency "to assure the continuing leadership of the United States in the purposeful pursuit of peace."

Altho the work of the disarmament agency so far has not won many plaudits from Congress, Morgan said the five new Democrats put on the committee this year gave him the votes to steamroll any opposition.

April Goal on Aid

Only Rep. H. R. Gross [R., Ia.] and Rep. Edward J. Derwinski [R., Ill.] voted against the disarmament agency extension, it was learned.

Morgan said in an interview that he will attempt to speed the drafting of a foreign aid bill this year. He set an April goal for House debate, about a month earlier than usual.

Morgan disclosed considerable personal dissatisfaction with the foreign aid bill sent to his committee by the administration. He does not, however, quarrel with its \$3,380,000,000 total. The total request a year ago was \$3,516,700,000, and Congress appropriated \$3,250,000,000.

"The bill sent up by the administration is split right down the middle into an economic aid bill and a military aid bill," Morgan said heatedly.

Fulbright a Threat

"This gives Sen. Fulbright [Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., chairman of the Senate foreign relation committee] an opportunity to divide the program and bring separate economic aid and military aid bills

before Congress," Morgan said. "If he does, I think I shall put them back into one bill before I take them to the House floor."

Fulbright announced at the

start of the session that he would not manage the President's foreign aid requests on the Senate floor this year unless each of the many foreign aid programs came to Congress in separate bills. When President Johnson sent to Congress an aid message lumping all programs into one, Fulbright turned the floor management of the aid program over to Sen. John Sparkman [D., Ala.].

Blames the Pentagon

Morgan blamed "the Pentagon" for the form of the bill making it easy to separate military aid from economic aid. He fears that if the two programs ever are separated, foreign economic assistance will be brought to an instant halt.

As long as a member of Congress can tell his voters that he voted for foreign aid because of its defense value, Morgan feels, he can avoid too much trouble. But once a member starts voting money to build bridges in Africa when his home district has been unable to get funds for a highway bridge, that member is in trouble, Morgan said, and so is the economic aid program.

Altho the secretary of state usually is the leadoff witness at foreign aid bill hearings, Secretary of State Dean Rusk is ill "and we will save him until the last," Morgan said.